



TRANSPORTATION SAFETY



Escambia County, Florida - ALS/BLS Medical Protocol

This protocol defines the Escambia County Bureau of Public Safety policy / procedure on the safe transportation of crew, patients, and passengers.

All persons in a moving ambulance shall be buckled in seat belts or restrained in some other approved fashion.

Exception to this rule include the personnel who are attending to patient(s); and the extremely obese patient who exceeds the size or weight limits of our equipment, and is unable to be restrained. All exceptions to this policy / procedure must be thoroughly documented.

General Guidelines


- A. Always provide optimal care to all patients and make the best use of available resources.
- B. Never leave a patient unattended in an ambulance.
- C. Follow the Trauma Transport Protocols regarding multiple patients and calling for additional resources.
- D. Ensure that all occupants are properly restrained, and all equipment, supplies, and patient belongings are secured prior to putting the ambulance in motion.
- E. Personnel should use the "three point" method (e.g. feet on floor and one hand holding a secure point) to move around the ambulance when the ambulance is in motion.
- F. The attendant is encouraged to remain in a seat belt as often as possible.
- G. EMTs, Paramedic students or any other third riders shall remain in a seat belt unless they are directly attending to the patient(s).
- H. Only one person may ride in the cab with the driver as long as they are restrained.



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Restraining patients


- A. Stretcher patients shall be secured with a minimum of three straps. In addition, shoulder harness straps should be used when available.
- B. Backboard patients transported on the crew bench shall be secured to the crew bench with a minimum of two straps.
- C. Patients should be secured to backboards with three (3) straps.
- D. Patients transported by suspension method shall be secured with a minimum of three straps to the flexi-cot.
- E. Patients transported "sitting position" shall be secured to the crew bench or Captain's chair with a seat belt.
- F. Pediatric patients not spinally immobilized shall be secured in the following manner:
 - 1. Patients weighing less than 10 lbs shall be transported in an approved child's seat secured to the stretcher with the back rest in high fowler position or secured to the Captain's chair or in the integrated child's seat in Captain's chair, if available.
 - 2. Patients weighing at least 10 lbs but not more than 40 lbs shall be secured to the stretcher using the Pedi-mate or in the integrated child's seat in the Captain's chair.
 - 3. Patients weighing more than 40 lbs shall be secured with a minimal of three straps. In addition, shoulder harness straps should be used when available.
- G. Crews may request that the on-duty supervisor bring them a child's seat if there is no other way to safely secure the child and it does not delay treatment of the patient(s).
- H. All straps and seat belts should be snugly secured but not so tight as to restrict circulation or affect any respiratory efforts.



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I. The following methods of restraints may be used for securing violent patients:

1. Stretcher and Backboard straps (to be in place on all devices used for moving patients).
2. Towel or sheet wraps
3. Gauze wrap (minimum width 2")
4. Velcro straps (minimum width 2")
5. Leather restraints
6. Soft restraints

J. Public Safety employees may not use the following methods to restrain patients:

1. Handcuffs
2. Polyethylene cable ties
3. Nylon cuffs
4. Any type of metal restraint

If a law enforcement officer has placed any of these devices on a patient, they may be left in place as long as a law enforcement officer rides with the patient or follows close behind so that the devices can be removed quickly if necessary to treat the patient. When a law enforcement officer places these devices on a patient, document what device was used, where the device(s) were placed, and who places the device on the patient.

Transportation of two patients


- A. On incidents in which two patients are to be transported, it is preferable that one unit transport both patients, unless, both patients are critically injured and additional resources are readily available.
- B. One patient should be safely secured to the stretcher with a minimum of three straps



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and the second patient should be safely secured to bench seat with seatbelt(s).

- C. One patient may be transported to one hospital and the other to a separate hospital. The attending paramedic should provide a quick report to the first hospital before transporting to the second hospital.
- D. If either of the patients is critically injured, the attending paramedic should request a third rider to assist with patient care, if at all possible.

Unusual Transportation Situations

Patients will always be transported in the safest manner possible.

However, there may be situations, such as disasters, multiple patient incidents, system overload, etc., where based upon patient(s) condition, it may be in the patients' best interest to be transported in a non- traditional method. (e.g. On the floor of the ambulance.)

In these situations, the attending paramedic shall request and receive prior approval from a Supervisor and/or EMS Chief.


The attending paramedic shall make every effort to restrain the patient and transport the patient in as safe a manner as possible.



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